

### REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous telephone interview of March 13, 2006 to discuss the pending rejections, including: (1) the substantive rejections of all claims over Hitch, and (2) the non-statutory subject matter rejection.

With respect to the Hitch patent, Applicants' representative specifically discussed how all the pending claims recite the presence of a "consensus" value (*e.g.*, "consensus PPS value" in claim 1). The Office Action has equated this claim language with a "phase difference" in the applied Hitch patent. Applicants' representative discussed with the Examiner various dictionary definitions of "consensus," which included "general agreement" (Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, 10th Edition) and "general agreement or accord" (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition, 2000). Other dictionaries conveyed similar substance in their definitions. In view of the above definitions, the Examiner was persuaded that the "phase difference" of Hitch did not read on the "consensus" language of the pending claims, such that the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over Hitch.

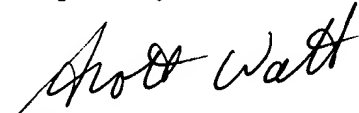
With respect to the non-statutory subject matter rejection, there was disagreement as to whether the pending claim language could be subject to a non-statutory subject matter rejection under MPEP 2106. Nonetheless, to facilitate prosecution and for avoidance of doubt, it was agreed that the rejection would be overcome if the claims were amended to recite a wherein clause which recited how the generated signals could be used to control the various computers for a "practical" result. All of the independent claims have been so amended to recite that "the

one or more computers are configured to synchronize based at least partially on” the generated signal (as such signal may be specifically defined in any particular claim).<sup>1</sup>

In view of the above, all rejections in the application are believed to be overcome. Withdrawal of the rejections, allowance of the application and a notice to that effect are earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing or insufficient fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Case No. 12492.0281).

Respectfully submitted,



Scott D. Watkins  
Registration No. 36,715  
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP  
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 429-8056;  
Fax: (202) 429-3902

Date: March 14, 2007

---

<sup>1</sup> Applicants note that the “based at least partially on” allows for intermediate processing and/or coordination with other signals for ultimate synchronization.